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## WAR PRODIGALITIES OF OUR OWN GOVERNMENT.

WAR EXPENSES IN A TIME OF PEACE. — Preparations for war absorb the chief part of the public money. It is humiliating to observe how readily our national rulers vote millions for war purposes, while they grudge a few thousands for objects of real utility; and, when comparatively small sums are voted by Congress for the benefit of the insane, for the improvement of rivers and harbors, or any other purposes of great and lasting value, the President vetoes them as unconstitutional, but seems to have no constitutional scruples or prudential doubts to prevent his sanctioning any amount demanded for war purposes, however extravagant or useless. Take some specimens :

*Appropriations by the recent Congress for war purposes :*

Army, - - - - -	10.375,000
Navy, - - - - -	9.851,000
Deficiency, - - - - -	1.900,000
Six Steam Frigates, - - - - -	3.000,000
Pensions, (all for warriors,) - - - - -	850,000
Fortifications, - - - - -	964,000
West Point Academy, - - - - -	140,000
Indian Appropriations, - - - - -	2.270,000
Indian War, - - - - -	75,000
Miscellaneous for Military Roads, Claims, &c. - -	600,000
Interest on War Debt, &c. - - - - -	5.000,000
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	35.025,000

*Outlays for War-Ships.* — The Portsmouth (Va.) *Transcript* says orders have been received for dismantling the U. S. ship "Pennsylvania," in consequence of the rotten and damaged condition of her spars and rigging. The ship was built at Philadelphia at a cost of one million of dollars; and probably another million has been spent on her since. She has been of no more use to the country than a Chinese Junk, never having made but one voyage, and that from Delaware Bay to Norfolk. The "Washington" 74, another abortion, on which three million dollars have been squandered, first and last, was long since broken up. She never rendered as much benefit to the country as a common two hundred ton steamer on the Ohio or Mississippi does every month.

Here is a specimen of war-economy — five millions of dollars spent on two ships of war that have rendered no service in return for these enormous expenditures. If the subject were sifted to the bottom, we should find nearly all war-expenses coming to pretty much the same result — vast outlays to little or no purpose of real utility.

EXPENDITURES ON U. S. ARMORIES. — Mr. Banks, in his late speech on the Superintendency of these, gives the following amounts expended from 1794 to 1841, a period of 47 years : —

At Harper's Ferry, - - - - -	\$6,084.751
At Springfield, - - - - -	6,439.767
Total in 47 years, - - - - -	12,524.518
In the next twelve years, at both armories, down to 1853,	5,046.805
Adding a probable average for the current year, - - -	450.000
Total in sixty years, - - - - -	18,021.323

This makes an average expenditure of \$300,000 a year for sixty years, or \$150,000 at each armory, and an average cost of \$15.73 a piece for the 1,144,252 arms made in all this period at both armories. A large number of arms for a nation of twenty-five millions; and the simple interest on the total expenditure, besides the continued appropriations of nearly half a million a year, amounts to no less than \$1,081,279. Thus these armories, with their arsenals, are an annual charge or drain on the nation of nearly a million and a half a year. What good has it all done, or is it likely ever to do? All the really effective or valuable fighting we ever did, was before we had a single armory, or had learned even to make our own powder. To how many useful and benevolent purposes might this \$1,500,000 be applied! It is nearly thrice as much as all the Christians of every name in our land are now giving annually to evangelize the heathen—almost thrice as much for two armories as for the world's conversion to God! This by a people calling themselves followers of the Prince of Peace, and professing to believe a gospel that *was* to make its disciples beat their swords into plough-shares, and learn war no more!

THE CONTRAST. — Our army is now a little less than 10,000, for which Congress has this year appropriated more than \$10,000,000. The Illinois Central Railroad employed last year some 10,000 laborers at a cost of only \$3,700,000; a little more than one third as much as our little army costs. What are the results? The laborers, for \$11,000,000, build in three years 700 miles of railway that will, in numberless ways, benefit the public down to the end of time; while the army, on which three times as much is expended, return for this vast outlay no appreciable equivalent, scarce a thing of any permanent value. Can any man tell us what good they have done the last year, or what good they are likely to do for the coming year? In the last thirty years, we have spent for the army and other military objects, aside from our war with Mexico, more than \$500,000,000, "for which we have nothing to show but some old forts, guns, battered uniforms, and demoralized veterans."

UNJUST RULE OF REWARDS FOR MILITARY MEN. — Mr. Gwin Aug. 3d, read in the U. S. Senate, "a Statement from the Navy Department, of several officers in high rank, who, from *habitual intemperance*, mental derangement produced thereby, and other *like* causes, had been for *twenty* years incompetent for duty."

Such a statement, from such a source, in such a presence, must of course be deemed essentially true; but, if so, it discloses the shameful fact, that "officers

in high rank," receiving, as such officers do, thousands of dollars a year, are continued in office with the usual compensation while entirely disqualified by *their own vices* for the discharge of its duties. Are any other than *military* servants of the government treated with such indulgence? Is a Representative or a Senator, a member of the Cabinet, or even of the Supreme Court, retained in office with all its emoluments, *after his vices*, or any thing else, have made him actually cease from performing its duties? What show of reason for such partiality to men of the sword?

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#### GLEANINGS FROM FOREIGN PUBLICATIONS.

**PROBABLE RESULTS OF THE PRESENT WAR.**—The roots of this terrible Upas tree strike deeply into every ramification of our social and political system. It stays the wheels of progress; and, with every step in the path of improvement retarded, we lose the impetus that would have won for us yet higher attainments. It diverts the energies of the nation from those channels which enlightened Christian philanthropy was pointing out and occupying, and leaves the ignorant, the wretched, and the oppressed, to grovel on in their charnel-houses of want and woe, whilst battle is being done with an enemy infinitely less dangerous and despotic than that which holds high court among the grim haunts of poverty in every capital in Europe. When the last shot shall have been fired, and the last carcass shall have bleached on plain and steppe, and a sullen peace adjusted by jealous diplomatists, then shall the nations find that, in the great legacy of new hatreds and heart-burnings which the war shall leave, Governments will derive additional pleas for maintaining indefinitely those stupendous armaments, and those burdens of taxation, which stifle the rising hopes of liberty, and grind the faces of the poor.

**EFFECT OF SEVERITY IN WAR.**—There are some who attempt to justify extreme severity in war, on the plea that it is the likeliest way to bring it to a speedy termination. The more swift and summary the destruction, it is said, the more likely will be the nations to sue for peace. All history, however, belies this axiom. Turn to any war — to that, for instance, of the Turks and Greeks in 1823-7. That was savage and sanguinary enough in all conscience. If the unmitigated atrocities of war have a tendency to hasten peace, this law must certainly have taken effect between these two combatants. But so far was it otherwise, that the strife only became more desperate and deadly after each fresh act of butchery; nor is there room to doubt that they would have fought on, until one of the parties had been utterly exterminated, if the great Powers, stimulated by the cry of horror that began to rise throughout the civilized world, had not interfered peremptorily to impose upon them conditions of peace. For, those who argue thus forget to take into account the frightful exasperation of all the malignant passions provoked by acts of wanton and needless cruelty, which lead men to lose all sense, both of interest and danger, in a ferocious hunger for revenge.

"By stripping war of its horrors," says the *Edinburgh Review*, "it is supposed that we foster a warlike spirit, and invest the horrible business of slaughter with an attractive and deceiving character. If, indeed, we could hope to put an end to all war by making it terrible, then we might admit the justice of this argument; but we do not believe that we should conduce to the attainment of this happy state of universal peace by creating and